

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for preparing a liquid solution for a medical procedure and arranged to contain a particulate material, wherein the cartridge includes:

an inner space for housing the particulate material;

an inlet formed at a first diameter end of the cartridge and arranged to permit the introduction of a liquid into the inner space;

an outlet formed at a second diameter end of the cartridge and arranged to permit the discharge of liquid from the inner space, the first diameter end of the cartridge being larger than the second diameter end of the cartridge, such that the cartridge tapers from the first diameter end to the second diameter end; and

a device comprising a hollow body defined by a wall enclosing a cavity of the hollow body, the hollow body having a first end and a second end, and being provided with a least one slit-shaped opening extending through the wall, said first end of the hollow body being mounted to the first diameter end of the cartridge at the inlet in such a manner that the hollow body extends into the inner space and said second end of the hollow body being located in the inner space of the cartridge, wherein said hollow body has a centre axis, said centre axis of the hollow body being arranged substantially parallel to a longitudinal dimension of the inner space, said first end of the hollow body being open and configured to receive said liquid to be introduced into the cartridge,

which liquid leaves the device through said at least one slit-shaped opening in a flow direction,

wherein said at least one slit-shaped opening has a first extension and a second extension being substantially perpendicular to the flow direction and to the first extension, wherein the second extension is significantly shorter than the first extension and significantly shorter than a length of said at least one slit-shaped opening in the flow direction.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the cartridge includes a filter arranged at the outlet and to permit passage of the liquid through the filter, but to prevent passage of the particulate material through the filter, wherein the filter permits the liquid to pass through the filter in a filter direction.

25. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the filter includes at least one slit-shaped opening, which has a first extension and a second extension being substantially perpendicular to the filter direction and to the first extension of the slit-shaped opening of the filter, wherein the second extension of the slit-shaped opening of the filter is significantly shorter than the first extension of the slit-shaped opening of the filter.

26-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein said hollow body has an elongated, tubular shape along the centre axis.

37. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 36, wherein said hollow body is tapering along the centre axis towards the second diameter end of the hollow body.

38. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein said hollow body at the first diameter end has engaging means configured to connect the device to the cartridge.

39. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the first extension is substantially perpendicular to the flow direction.

40. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the second extension is equal to or less than 0.1 mm.

41. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the second extension is equal to or less than 0.08 mm.

42. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the second extension is equal to or more than 0.02 mm.

43. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the second extension is equal to or more than 0.04 mm.

44. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the second extension is approximately 0.06 mm.

45. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the at least one slit shaped opening is a plurality of slit-shaped openings, which extend through the wall.

46. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 45, wherein the plurality of said slit-shaped openings are distributed around the wall.

47. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 36, wherein said hollow body has a wall portion at least in the proximity of the second end of the hollow body, and wherein said at least one slit-shaped opening-extends through said wall portion.

48. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 47, wherein said wall portion has a tip-like shape.

49. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 48, wherein said wall portion is substantially conical.

50. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 47, wherein said wall portion is substantially planar.

51. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 50, wherein a normal direction of said wall portion forms an angle of inclination to the centre axis.

52. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 36, wherein the flow direction forms an angle to the centre axis.

53. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 50, wherein the centre axis extends substantially in parallel with a normal direction of the planar wall portion.

54. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 22, wherein the at least one slit-shaped opening has an upstream end and a downstream end with respect to the flow direction, wherein the second extension of the at least one slit-shaped opening increases in the flow direction from a minimum value at the upstream end of the at least one slit-shaped opening to a maximum value at the downstream end of the opening.

55. (Previously Presented) A cartridge for preparing a liquid solution for a medical procedure and arranged to contain a particulate material, wherein the cartridge includes:

an inner space for housing the particulate material;
an inlet arranged to permit the introduction of a liquid into the inner space, the inlet being located at a first diameter end of the cartridge;
an outlet arranged to permit the discharge of liquid from the inner space, the outlet being located at a second diameter end of the cartridge, the first diameter end of the cartridge being larger than the second diameter end of the cartridge, such that the cartridge tapers from the first diameter end to the second diameter end;

a device comprising a hollow body defined by a wall enclosing a cavity of the hollow body, the hollow body having a first end and a second end, and being provided with a least one slit-shaped opening extending through the wall, said first end of the

hollow body being mounted to the first diameter end of the cartridge at the inlet in such a manner that the hollow body extends into the inner space and said second end of the hollow body is located in the inner space of the cartridge, said first end of the hollow body being open and configured to receive said liquid to be introduced into the cartridge, which liquid leaves the device through said at least one slit-shaped opening in a flow direction,

wherein said at least one slit-shaped opening has a first extension and a second extension being substantially perpendicular to the flow direction and to the first extension, wherein the second extension is significantly shorter than the first extension and significantly shorter than a length of said at least one slit-shaped opening in the flow direction; and
a filter arranged at the outlet, wherein the filter is a planar filter.

56. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 55, wherein the at least one slit-shaped opening is located nearer to the first diameter end of the cartridge than [[a]] the second diameter end of the cartridge, the second diameter end of the cartridge being opposite the first diameter end of the cartridge.

57. (Currently Amended) A cartridge according to claim 56, wherein the filter is attached to the second diameter end of the cartridge.

58. (Previously Presented) A cartridge according to claim 57, wherein the filter includes at least one slit-shaped opening, which has a first extension and a second extension being substantially perpendicular to the filter direction and to the first extension of the slit-shaped opening of the filter, wherein the second extension of the

slit-shaped opening of the filter is significantly shorter than the first extension of the slit-shaped opening of the filter and significantly shorter than a length of the at least one slit-shaped opening of the filter in the flow direction.